QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Departmental Purchases by Officers of Government.

1. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether all the officers who have to make purchases of articles on behalf of the Government are following the rules laid down for their guidance in Notification No. Fl. 2083, dated the 16th December 1921 ;

(*b*) whether all such officers have made their purchases in 1098, 1099, 1100 and 1101 after due publication of the notices calling for tenders in any of the Travancore newspapers and in any of the English newspapers in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, as required by Rule 8 of the Notification ;

(*c*) the names of those newspapers in and outside Travancore wherein these officers have published their notices inviting tenders for the purchases made by them in 1098, 1099, 1100 and 1101 ; and

(*d*) whether, in cases where such publication was not made, the Account Officer has refused payment and held the amount under objection until the sanction of the Government was obtained by the purchasing officer as required by Rule 13 of the Notification, and, if so, to quote the instances during 1098, 1099, 1100 and 1101 ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) Yes ; unless exceptions are sanctioned by the Government.

(*b*) The bills are passed only if the requirements prescribed in the Store Rules are complied with. Otherwise, the claims are disallowed.

(*c*) The notices are published by the drawing officers and payments are made on their certificates. It is difficult and laborious to trace the various newspapers in issues of which the several notices were published.

(*d*) In view of the answer to part (*b*), this question does not arise.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : With reference to the answer to part (*a*) of the question, may I know from the member the principle on which the exceptions are sanctioned?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : The exceptions are sanctioned on the basis of the Store Rules.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : May I know the circumstances under which exceptions are asked for ?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : In some cases, some of the articles might not have been easily procurable. In all cases where the tenders or the auction values are more than Rs. 2,500 the head of the department has to refer the matter to the Government, and they call for all the necessary papers, decide the question and communicate their decision to the Account Officer.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Am I to understand that exceptions are not asked for in the case of articles below Rs. 2,500 ?

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : They are also asked for, sometimes.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : May I know the number of exceptions that have been sanctioned up till now from the date of the publication of these rules?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : I cannot say that. I receive something like 20,000 vouchers in a month, and it is not easy to obtain the information.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know which is greater in number, these exceptions or the adherence to the Rules.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : Of course, the exceptions are very few in number.

Taluks yielding the largest Land Revenue.

2. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(i) the taluk that has been yielding the largest amount of land revenue in the State for the years 1097, 1098, 1099 and 1100 ; and

(ii) the taluk that has been yielding the largest amount of land revenue per head of population in the years 1097, 1098, 1099 and 1100?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (i) and (ii) A statement* showing the amount of land revenue collected in the several taluks of the State for the years 1097, 1098, 1099 and 1100 and also the population of the various taluks as per the censuses of 1911 and 1921 is laid on the table. The Muvattupuzha taluk yielded the largest revenue in 1097, the Kottayam taluk in 1098 and the taluk of Agastisvaram in 1099 and 1100. Information as to which of the taluks yielded the largest amount of revenue per head of population in each of the years can be gathered by calculation from the figures furnished.

Checking of Motor Buses between Trivandrum and Nagercoil.

3. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(i) the various stations between Trivandrum and Nagercoil at which motor buses are checked ;

(ii) what the nature of the checking is and how these buses are checked ;

(iii) the objects with which these buses are checked ;

(iv) the pay and grade of the men employed to check these buses in each of the stations ;

(v) the number of men deputed for this work daily in each of the stations ;

(vi) whether checking is done during all the 24 hours of the day, and if not, the time during which such checking is done ;

(vii) the language in which the permits, licenses, etc., are printed ;

(viii) the language in which the numbers on the badges to be worn by the drivers are inscribed ;

* *Vide* Appendix I—page 18.

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